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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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TO: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller 

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORTS – FRED
JEFFERSON MEMORIAL HOME FOR BOYS, COMPTON AND
DENKER SITES**

We have completed a review of the two group homes operated by Fred Jefferson Memorial Home for Boys, the Compton and Denker facilities. Each home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation). Both sites are six-bed facilities, located in the Second Supervisorial District that provide care for boys ages 9-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Compton was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children and Denker was providing services for three DCFS children.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to verify that the two agencies were providing services outlined in their Program Statements. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues. The review included an evaluation of each home's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with two children placed in each of the respective homes at the time of the reviews. The interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Overall, both agencies were providing the services outlined in the Program Statements. However, both need to make repairs to their facilities; improve their Needs and Services Plans and/or Quarterly Reports; and develop and follow a monthly activity

Attached are detailed reports of the findings for each home.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide DCFS with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

Attachment

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer

FRED JEFFERSON MEMORIAL HOMES FOR BOYS

**Compton Site
1000 West 152nd Street
Compton, CA 90220
(310) 609-1166
License No.: 198200050
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes for Boys operates two group home facilities, one being the Compton Site. The facility is located in a neighborhood of marginally maintained single-family homes. The exterior appearance of the home was adequate with no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the home was generally neat and clean. The common room was nicely maintained and the living room was neat and spacious. The bedrooms were roomy, clean, and had ceiling fans. However, there were areas in need of improvement.

Cracks in the bedroom walls needed repair and the ceiling fans did not provide adequate ventilation. Some of the mattresses were in poor condition and the closet in one of the bedrooms did not have a door. In addition, the beds did not have a full complement of linens including mattress pads.

In the resident bathroom, the vanity lacked light bulbs, the overhead heater was dusty and needed a light bulb, and the walls needed repair.

There was age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, a TV with cable, VCR and video games. There was also a computer for the residents use. However, there was an insufficient supply of books and resource material. The book shelves contained a set of Encyclopedias more than ten years old and several old school books.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen foods, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit, properly stored.

Recommendations

1. Compton management:

- a. Install ceiling fans that provide adequate ventilation.**
- b. Replace worn mattresses in the residents' bedrooms.**
- c. Provide a full compliment of linens for each resident's bed including a mattress cover.**
- d. Provide adequate reading and resource material for the residents.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met Compton's population criteria as outlined in their program statement. One resident received had an initial assessment and the other resident had been in the facility less than thirty days.

The applicable resident's Needs and Services Plan (NSP) was timely and appropriately described attainable goals of reducing or decreasing various undesirable behaviors. However, the NSP did not sufficiently specify undesirable behaviors or note a baseline for those behaviors in order to make an accurate assessment of progress. In addition, the NSP did not adequately describe the behavioral task (objective) or expected outcome. Both the child and the child's authorized representative were participants in the development of the NSP.

The quarterly report although comprehensive regarding various areas of the resident's life and functioning, did not focus on the goals stated in the NSP.

Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

2. Compton management:

- a. Develop Needs and Services Plans that are specific and measurable.**

- b. Write Quarterly Reports that focus on the goals in the Needs and Services Plans.**

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

One resident was not attending school due to the summer break but previously attended a local public school. He did not require an Individualized Education Plan and had a current report card on file.

The other resident was recently placed at the facility and many of his educational documentation had not yet been received by the home. However the resident was scheduled to attend a private school in the coming school year.

Compton staff was supportive of the residents' academic progress and attends school meetings and conferences as needed. There was also a tutor that came to the facility during the regular academic year.

Development of daily living skills was part of Compton's program. The residents indicated that such training included basic housekeeping, personal hygiene, developing a grocery list, meal planning, basic cooking skills, and how to ride the bus. The residents attended emancipation/ILP courses provided by the Community College Foundation in conjunction with the Department of Children and Family Services. The facility also assisted residents in employment preparation and encouraged them in the process of looking for and obtaining a job. Neither resident was employed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Compton did not follow a monthly activity schedule, as required by the Statement of Work, and many of the activities occurred without previous planning. Residents

provided input to the process by indicating what activities they liked and disliked. Due to the actual and potential violence in the neighborhood, residents were not permitted to engage in unsupervised and/or self-selected activities. All outings were supervised and staff transported the residents to and from the activities.

One resident indicated that there was an insufficient amount of activities, particularly during the summer months. However, the facility utilized local community organizations were for recreation and program resources which included swimming, playing basketball, going to the movies, and going to restaurants. In addition, the residents had ample free time and several activity choices within the facility, such as table games, contained sports activities, reading, working at the computer, playing video games, and listening to music in their rooms.

Recommendations

3. Compton management develop and follow a monthly activity schedule.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There are five residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

According to management, there were no residents receiving psychotropic medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were informed of the agency's policies when arriving in placement. The residents indicated that there was an appropriate rewards and discipline system in place that they believed was utilized in a fair manner. The residents were assigned household chores that they indicated were not too difficult. Residents were permitted to telephone their placement worker on the office telephone and also had access to the

“telephone room.” The residents reported that they were pleased with their access to the telephone, were treated with dignity, and felt that their ethnic/cultural lifestyles were respected. They indicated that a sufficient number of staff was always in the home when residents were present.

Routine medical and dental care was provided. The residents reported satisfaction with the food provided and indicated that they had access to two snacks per day.

The residents indicated that they felt safe within the confines of the facility but that their feeling of security did not extend outside the facility due to the violence in the neighborhood.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Compton provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Compton supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothing. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The residents are provided with at least the required weekly minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency’s behavioral system.

Compton provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

FRED JEFFERSON MEMORIAL HOMES FOR BOYS

Denker Site

9156 Denker Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90047

(323) 820-1900

License No.: 198201547

Rate Classification Level: 8

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Fred Jefferson Memorial Homes for Boys operates two group home facilities, one being the Denker Site. There are both well-maintained and poorly-maintained homes in the residential area where the facility is located. The visual appearance of the facility was marginal including the landscaping. There were Christmas lights mounted on the exterior of the home, the trim and window frames were chipped and weather-beaten, and the stucco along the lower part of the house was discolored, chipped and recessed. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the home was generally neat and clean. The common rooms provided a spacious and clean area for the residents to engage in various activities. The bedrooms were roomy and clean with ceiling fans that provided ventilation and cool air. In addition, the resident bathroom was neat and clean. However, there were areas in need of improvement.

The mattress in bedroom number one was worn and, in bedroom number three, the ceiling fan had paper folded and placed between the lamp and the ceiling to provide stabilization. Resident beds were not consistently made up with a full complement of linens and a footlocker in one of the bedrooms was damaged.

There was age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, a TV, VCR, and video games. There were also two computers available for the residents. However, there was an insufficient supply of books and resource material. The book shelves contained a set of Encyclopedias that were more than ten years old and several old school books. Although the reading material was limited, it included several current Sports Illustrated Magazines, a book on wrestling, and a How to Pass the SAT workbook.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen foods, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit, properly stored.

Recommendations

1. Denker management:

- a. Remove the Christmas lights mounted on the exterior of the facility.
- b. Paint the exterior trim and window frames.
- c. Repair the exterior stucco.
- d. Enhance the landscaping.
- e. Replace the mattress in bedroom number one.
- f. Repair the ceiling fan in bedroom number three.
- g. Provide a full complement of linens for each resident's bed.
- h. Replace the damaged footlocker.
- i. Provide adequate reading and resource material for the residents.

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met Denker's population criteria as outlined in their program statement. One resident had received an initial assessment and the other resident had been in the facility less than thirty days.

The applicable resident's Needs and Services Plan (NSP) was timely and appropriately described attainable goals of reducing or decreasing various undesirable behaviors. However, the NSP did not sufficiently specify undesirable behaviors or note a baseline of those behaviors to make an accurate assessment of progress. In addition, the NSP did not adequately describe the behavioral task (objective) or expected outcome.

Both the child and the child's authorized representative participated in the development of the NSP.

The Quarterly Reports were not due at the time of the review.

Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

- 2. Denker management develop Needs and Services Plans that are specific and measurable.**

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were not attending school due to the summer break. Neither resident required an Individualized Education Plan and both records contained current report cards and/or progress reports.

Denker staff was supportive of the residents' academic progress and attended school meetings and conferences as needed. In addition, a tutor came to the facility during the regular academic year.

Development of daily living skills was part of Denker's program. The residents indicated that such training included basic housekeeping, personal hygiene, developing a grocery list, meal planning, basic cooking skills, and how to ride the bus. The residents attended emancipation/ILP courses provided by the Community College Foundation in conjunction with the Department of Children and Family Services. The facility also assisted residents in employment preparation and encouraged them in the process of looking for and obtaining a job. Neither resident was employed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Denker did not follow a monthly activity schedule, as required by the Statement of Work, and many of the activities occurred without previous planning. Residents provided input

to the process by indicating what activities they liked and disliked. Due to the actual and potential violence in the neighborhood, residents were not permitted to engage in unsupervised and/or self-selected activities. All outings were supervised and staff transported the residents to and from the activities.

Local community organizations are utilized for recreation and program resources which include swimming, playing basketball, going to the movies, and going to restaurants. The residents indicated that they were satisfied with the amount and type of recreational activities provided. They reported that they had ample free time and sufficient choices of activities at the facility such as table games, contained sports activities, reading, working at the computer, playing video games, and listening to music in their rooms.

Recommendations

- 3. Denker management develop and follow a monthly activity schedule.**

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There are three residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

According to management, there were no residents receiving psychotropic medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were informed of the agency's policies when arriving in placement.

The residents indicated that there was an appropriate rewards and discipline system in place that they believed was utilized in a fair manner. The residents were assigned household chores that they indicated were not too difficult. The residents were

permitted to telephone their placement worker on the office telephone and also had access to the “telephone room.” The residents reported that they were pleased with their access to the telephone, were treated with dignity, and felt that their ethnic/cultural lifestyles were respected. They indicated that a sufficient number of staff was always in the home when residents were present.

Routine medical and dental care was provided. The residents reported satisfaction with the food and indicated that they had access to two snacks per day.

The residents indicated that they felt safe within the confines of the facility, but that their feeling of security did not extend outside the facility due to the violence in the neighborhood.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Denker provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Denker supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The residents are provided with at least the required minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency’s behavioral system.

Denker provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.